



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

Ms. Coll. 127

Massachusetts Prison Newsletter Collection, 1970-2004: Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Call Number: Ms. Coll. 127

Extent: 3 boxes (1.5 linear feet)

Preferred Citation Style: *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Massachusetts Prison Newsletter Collection. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.

Processed by: Finding aid prepared by Andrea E. Still, September, 2004; updated by Abigail Cramer, September, 2012.

Abstract: This collection consists of newsletters published by several Massachusetts correctional facilities.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection includes newsletters published by various Massachusetts correctional facilities and prisons. It also includes newsletters produced by families-of-prisoners groups and friends-of-prisoners groups. The newsletters were intended for both incarcerated and un-incarcerated audiences. The purpose of the newsletters was manifold: they served to inform secular and non-secular, free and incarcerated communities of pertinent legislation; they expressed problems and successes with different prison programs; and they provided a creative and oftentimes highly emotional outlet for inmates (a good portion of the newsletters is taken up by poetry, creative writing, and short plays).

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Arrangement

The papers are arranged in two series:

Series I. Organizational Publications, 1970-1993

Series II. Prisoner Publications, 1970-2004

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department's regular hours.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

Languages and Scripts

The materials are entirely in English.

Custodial History

It is unclear who created this collection. Much of it appears to have been culled from the papers of the late Senator Jack Backman, who was noted for his work and interest in prison reform. Many newsletters are addressed to him.

Related Materials

The following collections may also be of interest:

- Ms. Coll. 98, Jack Backman Papers (State Library of Massachusetts)

Series Description and Container List

Series I: Organizational Publications, 1970-1993

Scope and Content

This series includes newsletters written and published by organizations (such as the American Friends Service Committee) aimed primarily at government and official readers.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically by publishing organization.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
3	1	American Friends Service Committee: <i>Outlook on Justice</i>	Spring 1976
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1	2	Boston Court Resource Project: <i>The Alternative</i>	March/April 1973
1	3	Correctional Association of Massachusetts (CAM): <i>Correctional Association of Massachusetts Newsletter</i>	1980-1981
1	4	Massachusetts Bar Association: Criminal Justice Section: <i>Section News</i>	Jan. 1982
1	5	Massachusetts Council on Crime and Correction, Inc.: Various	1970-1971
1	6	Massachusetts Corrections Institutions (MCI): Norfolk, Miscellaneous	undated
1	7	Mental Health Legal Advisory Committee: <i>Advisor</i> and other flyers	Fall 1993
1	8	Tri-County Youth Programs, Inc.: <i>Turning Point</i>	Summer 1983
1	9	U.S. Department of Labor: <i>Role of Local Governments Under CETA</i>	1974
1	10	WCVB-TV (Channel 5): Editorials	1973

Series II: Prisoner Publications, 1970-2004

Scope and Content

This series includes newsletters written by and for prisoners and former prisoners.

Arrangement

This series is arranged in roughly alphabetical order by newsletter title.

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1	11-11.1	<i>Behind the Wall (2 folders)</i>	Sept. 1990,

			1992-2004
1	11.2	<i>A Year of Days</i>	1997
1	12	<i>The Bridge</i> (Bay State & Old Cambridge Baptist)	1984-1985
1	13	<i>The Colony</i>	June 15, 1971
3	14	<i>Concord Community: Inside/Outside</i>	Mar. 1982- April 1986
1	15	<i>A Day in Time, A Day in Prison</i>	1981
3	16	<i>Doing Time</i> (Families & Friends of Prisoners, Inc.)	Aug. 1979- Spring 1982
1	17	<i>Ex-Offender Community News</i> (JUSTUS)	1982
1	18	<i>The Express</i> (Deer Island House of Corrections)	undated
1	19	Hey Out There!	1972
1	20	<i>The Lifeline</i> (Norfolk Lifer's Group)	1970
1	21	<i>The Mentor</i>	July 1971- Jan. 1974
1	22	<i>Not Alone</i> (For Families of Former & Current Inmates) (Premiere Issue)	undated
1	23	<i>Prison Epistles</i>	1980
1	24	<i>A Prisoner Comes to Visit You!</i>	Aug. 1972
1	25	<i>Pros & Cons: Law Offender Services Newsletter</i>	Dec. 1973
1-2	26-29	<i>The Question Mark</i> (4 folders)	1974-1989
2	30	<i>The Source</i> (vol.1, No. 2; vol.3, No.1)	undated
2	31	<i>The World Split Open: Writing & Theatre by Women in Prison</i>	undated